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# ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

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OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK

## THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

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Mount Sinai School of Medicine • The Mount Sinai Hospital



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July 11, 1983

Mr. Chuck Scarborough  
Channel 4 WNBC  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10029

Dear Mr. Scarborough:

Several weeks ago representatives of your television network, in the company of representatives of W. R. Grace and Company, hand delivered to this laboratory a 41 pound bag of Monokote MK-5 spray insulation for the purposes of mineralogical evaluation. This material carried a label which designated it as Lot #2F1. An aliquot of the Monokote was withdrawn from the bag and prepared for analysis by analytical electron microscopy.

This aliquot was first passed through a #40-mesh screen for the purpose of separating finer "dust" from dust "clumps". This fraction was then treated with 0.1 molar sulfuric acid to dissolve gypsum. This material was allowed to dry and then prepared for examination with electron beam instrumentation by the "wipe-out" technique. At least 20 grid openings, on 12 grids, were scanned at 13,000X magnification. In this area several tremolite fibers were detected and their identities established by means of chemical characterization (energy dispersive x-ray analysis) and with structural characterization as well (selected area electron diffraction). Compared to the other particles present in the preparation, these fibers represent only a trace of the total mass of the aliquot studied. Quantitation of the tremolite content is extremely difficult to establish but it may be estimated to be on the order of ten-thousandths of a percent, or possibly parts per million, by volume.

Several fibers displaying chemistry of titania, and several aluminosilicates were observed as well.

On the basis of this mineralogical characterization, I would consider this material to be virtually free of mineral fiber. The quantities of fiber present in this sample are far less than in the specimen submitted for analysis by Mr. Goldfarb. I have no explanation for this discrepancy.

ANR/d

cc: W. R. Grace ✓  
Mr. Goldfarb

Very truly yours,

Arthur N. Rohl Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor Mineralogy

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